

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-8, 16-19 and 21 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 16, 17, 19 and 21 are independent. Claims 9-15 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claim 17 has been amended herein.

In the Office Action dated September 8, 2005, Claims 1-5 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner suggested that the term “data” on line 4 of Claim 1, for example, is unclear. It was suggested that it was not understood what the data is, where it comes from and how it can be set. However, the term in question is clearly defined as being for causing the printhead to perform predetermined processing. Solely by way of example, the driving energy change information (113 in Figure 4) can read on the claimed data. However, the term is not intended to be limited in scope to this information. While the term “data” may be broad, breadth is not to be equated with indefiniteness. Note MPEP Section 2173.04. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are requested.

Claims 1-5 and 8-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,318,828 (Barbour et al.). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Barbour et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The printing system 100 of Barbour et al. includes a data processor 124, which communicates with a controller 110 and controls driver head 126. As shown in Figure 1A, data processor 124 is arranged within printhead assembly 116, and is separate from driver head 126. Printhead assembly 116 is neither a carriage which carries the printhead assembly nor an element base which has a plurality of recording elements and a driving control circuit. Accordingly, Barbour et al. does not disclose or suggest control means arranged on a carriage or on a head mounting means, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 19. Nor does Barbour et al. disclose or suggest a second control unit mounted on a carriage, as is recited in independent Claim 17. Further, Barbour et al. does not disclose or suggest an element base having a plurality of printing (or liquid discharge) elements and a driving control circuit, as is recited in independent Claims 16 and 21.

Thus, Barbour et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

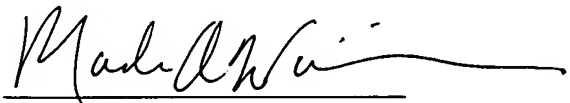
Accordingly, thus, independent Claims 1, 16, 17, 19 and 21 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 16, 17, 19 and 21. Dependent Claims 2-8 and 18 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

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